

January 3, 2005

# **CIVIC CONNECTION**

**A Monthly News Service from the Division of Communications for Norfolk Civic Organizations**

## **NORFOLK SCHEDULES ANNUAL SALUTE TO CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER**

The City of Norfolk's annual celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday will be held on January 17. The "March for Hope" will begin at 11:00 a.m. at Norfolk City Hall on Union Street. The march will travel down St. Paul's Boulevard to Brambleton Avenue to the Dr. Martin Luther King Monument and Plaza, where the marchers will pause for a silent prayer in memory of the slain civil rights leader. The march will then proceed to the newly renovated Attucks Theater. Mayor Paul Fraim and Vice Mayor Daun Hester will offer brief remarks. Music will be provided by the U.S. Postal Service Mass Choir and soloist Adrian Lee of Bethany Baptist Church.

## **CITY FINALIZING PLANS FOR CREDIT CARD PAYMENT PROGRAM**

Department of Finance and the City Treasurer's Office are working collaboratively to expand credit card transactions throughout the City.

The City currently accepts credit cards at Nauticus, the City Treasurer's Office, Parking, Public Works Towing, and the Zoo. This option was recently accepted as a means of payment by the City Codes and Planning Administration Offices at both the Granby Building and the Ocean View site. Within the next two-three weeks, it is expected that credit cards will be accepted at Lake Wright Golf Course and other golf courses throughout the City. Within 60 days we expect that other City recreational facilities, the Department of Finance and City libraries will have the ability to accept credit cards as an alternate form of payment.

As with most financial transactions, when accepting credit cards the merchant (in this case the City) is charged a transaction fee. Under our existing credit card contract, current credit card transactions fees are as follows: MasterCard and Visa – 1.68%, American Express – 2.44% and Discover – 2.40%. Fees are based upon assumptions associated with anticipated annual volume and average transaction size. Should volume and transaction size change, fees may be adjusted. In addition to transaction fees, there are nominal equipment rental charges. According to the City Manager, the value of accepting credit cards outweighs the transaction fee and is cost beneficial.

***POLICE CHIEF NOTES MAJOR PROGRESS ON MANY FRONTS***

*Reprinted from The Vigilant, NPD newsletter*

As we approach the year's end it is appropriate to reflect on some of our accomplishments as a department. The first highlight of the year, from my perspective, was the swearing-in of the department's 32<sup>nd</sup> police chief, an experience which I will reflect on a bit more. 2004 continued to be an eventful and productive year, with the reopening of the Pistol Range and upgrading of the K-9 facilities among the infrastructural highlights. We also opened the RAOC (Recruitment, Application, and Orientation Center) which has contributed significantly to our recruitment efforts.

During the year we received seven grants totaling \$1,655,654. Grant monies facilitated the purchase of live-scan equipment, additional bullet proof vests, as well as the hiring of 10 additional officers to be assigned as School Resource Officers. Overtime funding was also allocated through these grants.

A newly acquired Internal Affairs/Professional Standards software package featuring a complex "Early Warning system" will assist the department in maintaining the high ethical standards to which we all strive to adhere. In addition, the system is expected to ensure the most efficient handling of citizen complaints and administrative investigations.

While the year-end crime statistics will not be finalized before another week or so, it appears that we will record about a six percent decrease when compared with last year's figures. This success can be attributed in large measure to the dedication and hard work of our employees. It is a great commentary on the work ethic of both sworn and civilian personnel who are committed to public safety and enhancing the quality of life for our citizens.

Two Basic Recruit Academy sessions were completed this year, adding 47 officers to the streets. A third academy, which began late September, will graduate in March 2005.

The Citizen's Academy continues to flourish, with about 80 participants completing the course this year. Thanks to all employees whose enthusiasm has contributed to the success of this program.

Having completed almost one year with "Norfolk's finest," I must say that it was rewarding to take the oath as Norfolk's Police Chief. It has been continually rewarding to become acquainted with the members of this fine department. I trust that the "Open Door" days have been helpful and reflective of my approach to management.

## **YEAR-END REPORT: NORFOLK REMAINS A LEADER IN THE DRINKING WATER INDUSTRY**

As a regional water purveyor, Norfolk treated almost 25 billion gallons of water in 2004. Norfolk's drinking water maintained 100 % compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act every day of the year, as every drop of the treated water met or exceeded all state and federal drinking water quality standards. The city seamlessly provided this water to 700,000 customers in Norfolk, Virginia Beach, parts of Chesapeake, and on Naval installations region-wide.

The Department of Utilities continued security enhancements at its two drinking water plants and prepared the larger of the two plants, Moores Bridges, for future emergencies by installing five new back-up generators. The smaller plant, 37<sup>th</sup> Street Water Treatment Plant, had been equipped with a backup generator during its most recent renovation. These measures help ensure that the highest quality drinking water is deliverable in any circumstance.

The Moores Bridges Water Treatment Plant was recognized by the Hampton Roads Sanitation District with a Silver Award lauding responsible environmental management. And the employees who work at this plant and at other utilities facilities made safety a top priority, earning the Department of Utilities a national Award of Honor from the American Water Works Association. The department was the only major utility in the state of Virginia to receive a safety award on this level.

So confident that Norfolk's drinking water is of the highest quality, the department bottled its own water and created "Norfolk Pure". Norfolk Pure is distributed at special events and to civic organizations in an effort to promote Norfolk's tap water as the drinking water of choice.

Utilities ensured that water, as well as wastewater services, were available on demand to all Norfolk residents, 24 hours per day, seven days per week. Utilities employees responded around the clock to almost 14,000 calls for water and sewer service, installed 541 new water services, and replaced approximately 4,600 water meters. The department's financial assistants processed almost 14,000 drop box location HRUBS bill payments—a record number of payments received in our drop boxes, representing a convenience and cost savings to our customers.

Utilities completed major capital projects to improve water and sewer services by replacing aging neighborhood sewer and water systems. The Lafayette Boulevard replacements were completed, as well as neighborhood projects such as Campostella Phase One and Fairmount Park Phases One and Two. The department has begun Phase Two of the Campostella project and Phase Three of the Fairmount Park replacement. Further, Utilities outlined an aggressive sewer and water system replacement plan in which we'll invest \$34 million per year on average for the next ten years, replacing water and sewer systems and enhancing utilities services across Norfolk.

Utilities Lifeline Bill Assistance program helped a record 1,340 Norfolk households and provided \$373,700 in bill assistance to these families in 2004.

## **LAST YEAR IT WAS TREEHOUSES; THIS YEAR GARDEN WILL FEATURE “TREASURE ISLAND” AND NEEDS YOUR HELP**

In 2004, Norfolk Botanical Garden hosted TREEmendous TREEhouses, a major regional exhibition featuring unique and creative, non-traditional treehouses. The exhibition doubled the Garden's visitation, bringing people of all ages to marvel at the 11 treehouses, located throughout the Garden's 155 acres. In 2005, the Garden is taking it up a notch with Treasure Island, an interactive exhibition featuring themed destinations, which will host daily activities open to all visitors. The Garden's education department will develop these activities, inspired by each individual design and intended to enhance the visitor's experience. All destinations will be designed to stimulate the imaginations of children of all ages and encourage playful interaction. Each designer will create and build a structure that showcases their talents, invites children to play and features fantasy and whimsy.

For more information on design submissions or Treasure Island please contact Erin Harley, Event and Exhibit Specialist at 757/441-5830 ext. 312 or [erinharley@nbgs.org](mailto:erinharley@nbgs.org).

For more information on sponsoring or donating materials to Treasure Island please contact Stacey Klatt, Development Specialist at 757/441-5830 ext. 316 or [stacey.klatt@nbgs.org](mailto:stacey.klatt@nbgs.org).

## **FREE TAX FILING ASSISTANCE: PUT EXTRA CASH IN YOUR POCKET**

**Volunteer Income Tax Assistance** sites will be available in Norfolk beginning in January 2005 for low-income families who qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit. The EITC remains the single largest federal aid program for working families. This fully refundable tax credit is designed to:

- Increase financial stability
- Reduce tax liability
- Supplement wages

In 2004, an estimated *\$5 million* went unclaimed in Norfolk because citizens who were eligible did not file for the tax credit. And this year, according to the IRS, approximately five thousand potential new EITC recipients reside in Norfolk, for a total of more than *\$9 million* in EITC refunds. The average EITC refund for a Norfolk resident is \$1800.

For more information on EITC and free tax filing assistance contact Jan Callaghan, Public Information and Education at 664-6020  
[jan.callaghan@norfolk.gov](mailto:jan.callaghan@norfolk.gov)

## **CITY COUNCIL ADOPTS TWO MORE NEIGHBORHOOD PLANS**

### **1. *Broad Creek Revitalization and Implementation Plan***

This plan is the result of several community and steering committee meetings where residents articulated a vision for Broad Creek. The Plan sets forth a vision with strategies designed to resurrect the essence of Broad Creek as a compelling and reinvigorated community. It is multi-dimensional in addressing housing at all price points, as well as retail, educational and public facilities. The Plan provides the impetus for change and will position the community to attract new public and private investments through magnet and anchor projects. These magnets and anchors put in place the structure for sustaining an economically, socially, and racially diverse community of residents, business and investors.

Broad Creek is located directly east of downtown Norfolk and is bounded on the south by the Eastern Branch of the Elizabeth River and by railway lines to the north, east and west. The Community, approximately 3.3 square miles in size, includes the neighborhoods of Haynes Tract, Central Brambleton, Chesterfield heights, Douglas Park, Middle Towne Arch, South Brambleton, Spartan Village, Stonebridge, Grandy Village and Moton Circle. The public housing communities of Bowling Green and Roberts Village, also located with the community, are being replaced with a mixed-income, mixed housing development. This is a long range plan that will require implementation phases and funding over many years.

### **2. *Greater Wards Corner Comprehensive Plan***

The City Council has adopted the Greater Wards Corner Comprehensive Plan. The City of Norfolk retained the consultant services of Wallace Roberts & Todd, LLC to assist in development of a Comprehensive Plan for the Greater Wards Corner area. The study area included the commercial and neighborhood areas primarily north and south of Little Creek Road from Hampton Boulevard to Southern Shopping Center. As part of the planning process, several meetings were held with property owners, merchants, and civic league representatives. Three public meetings were held as the plan progressed at varying stages over the course of the year.

The culmination of the process is a plan addressing strategies to revitalize retail in the area and to protect residential neighborhoods from disinvestment and deterioration. The plan suggests redevelopment of the highest density apartment buildings and trailer park in the Denby Park neighborhood south of Little Creek Road as a mixed use community with retail, restaurants, a hotel, apartments, condominiums, and structured parking. An expanded Fort Worth Avenue would serve as a main street for the area.

The plan also recommends redevelopment of the commercial node at Granby Street and Little Creek Road to mid-rise apartments with ground floor retail designed around courtyards. In the Titustown retail center on Little Creek Road, the plan suggests

selective acquisition of non-compatible land used to improve and strengthen the commercial area. As the real estate market improves, it is suggested that other small, high-density apartments along Little Creek Road be replaced with owner-occupied town houses.

This is a long range plan that will require implementation in phases and funding over many years. It is anticipated that there will be private investments as well.

## **CDBG PROPOSED GRANT REQUESTS EXCEED \$12 MILLION**

The City received a total of 52 requests exceeding \$12 million as part of the FY 2006 CDBG, ESG and HOME application process. The deadline for submitting applications was Friday, December 10. A review of the applications by staff in the Office of Grants Management is now underway. Please note that the City's funding authorization from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development for FY 2006 will not be made available until March 2005.

After Grants management staff performs the initial review of the applications for completeness, staff will work with the Internal Work Group and the Citizen's Advisory Group. These two committees will rate the applications and forward their recommendations to the Planning Commission in February. The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing and makes recommendations after its public hearing. The City Council will receive the recommendations from the City Manager as part of the Proposed Budget process in April along with the Advisory Group and Planning Commission's review. This new streamlined process is designed to help ensure better quality and monitoring of grant recipients as well as coordination with the budget process.

## **CHILDREN'S GARDEN RECEIVES MAJOR DONATION**

The Norfolk Botanical Garden Society, Inc. has donated \$1,122,895 in funds and \$2,270,882 in loan proceeds for the construction of the Children's Garden at the Garden, appropriating and authorizing the expenditure of the funds and loan proceeds for the construction project and approving the terms and conditions of an agreement between the City of Norfolk and the Norfolk Botanical Garden Society, inc. regarding the construction project.

## **CITY COUNCIL ADOPTS RESOLUTION TO ELECT MAYOR**

By a 5-2 vote, the City Council adopted a resolution requesting the General Assembly for amendments to provide for a popularly elected mayor to be added as an eighth member of council. This draft provides for the addition of the popularly elected mayor with a four (4) year term beginning July 1, 2006. If a sitting council member chooses to run for mayor, he shall be deemed to have resigned his council seat as of

June 30<sup>th</sup> of the year of the election. As with the council seats, the candidate receiving the largest number of votes is elected mayor. The powers and functions of the mayor are unchanged. The plan must also be approved by the Department of Justice.

## **WINTER READING CLUB CELEBRATES THE CIRCUS**

Children ages 4 to 12 years old! Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey ® Circus and Norfolk Public Library invite you to participate in a winter reading club. Earn special circus prizes, including a free ticket, when you read at Norfolk Public Library.

This exciting winter reading club begins on Monday, January 10 and is designed to encourage young readers to come to the library. Earn a free ticket to the circus by reading at the library for 20 minutes on four different days. At each visit participants will receive a special prize:

- 20 minutes: clown nose
- 60 minutes: circus poster
- 80 minutes: CD ROM
- 100 minutes: a **FREE** ticket to the circus!

In addition to reading, children will have a variety of activity sheets and coloring sheets to enjoy. The club ends on Friday, February 11. So, grab your library card, stop by NPL's nearest branch library, and start reading to earn your **FREE** ticket. For more information on this unique reading program, call the Youth Services Department at 664-7323 ext. 43748.

## **FIRST CHALLENGER LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL WORLD JAMBOREE COMING TO NORFOLK**

In the first event of its kind, the inaugural Challenger Little League Baseball World Jamboree will be played May 4-7, 2006 at the Azalea Little League Complex in Norfolk, and will be hosted by Virginia District 8. The announcement was made in Williamsport, Pa., by Steve Keener, president and chief executive officer of Little League Little League Baseball and Softball, and in Norfolk by Mayor Paul Fraim.

The Challenger Division is Little League's program for mentally and physically disabled children. More than 27,000 children played in the Challenger Division in 2004 on more than 1,800 teams in the U.S., Canada, and several other countries.

Little League's Virginia State Coordinator and District 8 Administrator, Jake Hardison began the Challenger Tournament and Fun Weekend in 1992 with 16 teams taking part. The event, held each year on Mother's Day weekend, has enjoyed steady growth. The May 6-7, 2005 event will be the largest of its kind, and feature more than 80 teams from several states.

Hardison said he started working on the concept of a world-wide jamboree more than a year ago. The Little League International Board of Directors approved the re-designation of the event on November 12.

“It will be an honor to welcome and host Challenger players and their families from the United States and around the world to the international jamboree,” said Hardison. “Challenger baseball is such a positive program for children who face severe hardships in their daily lives. As a result of this event, I hope that more disabled children will have the opportunity to participate in such a wonderful program.

“We have a tremendous group of volunteers that will do a great job coordinating games and events. We have some great partners to work with like Mayor Fraim and the City of Norfolk.

Together, we want to ‘Welcome the World’ here for the Jamboree to celebrate Challenger Baseball. I am certain it will be a memorable event.”

The designation of the event in 2006 as the Challenger Little League Baseball World Jamboree is expected to draw between 200 and 300 teams.

“Norfolk is deeply appreciative to Little League International for selecting our historic city as the site for such a prestigious and worthwhile event,” said Mayor Fraim. “The city is planning to marshal its resources to ensure that the jamboree is a huge success for the players and their families.”

Little League International launched the Challenger Division in 1989 to provide boys and girls with disabilities the opportunity to experience the joy of playing baseball, “America’s game.” Disabled children ages 5-18 are eligible to participate. Challenger baseball features “buddies” who help their partners by acting as guides for blind children or pushing wheel-chair bound children around the base paths. During the past 15 years, Challenger baseball has become little League’s fastest growing division. The jamboree will include games, tours, picnics and other special events. Packages with complete details will be made available in September 2005.

## **NEIGHBORHOOD UNIVERSITY**

The Division of Neighborhood Services encourages you to make the most of 2005 by taking advantage of Norfolk Neighborhood University in these very important ways...

### **DEVELOP YOURSELF**

- Sharpen Your
- Leadership Skills
- Make Your Personality
- Traits Work for You

### **BUILD COMMUNITY**

- Strengthen Your
- Communication Skills



- Explore New Networking
- Opportunities

### **TAP RESOURCES**

- Broaden Your Knowledge of City Government Processes
- Discover Resources
- to Benefit You and Your Community

Get details today! [www.norfolk.gov/neighborhoods/services/university.asp](http://www.norfolk.gov/neighborhoods/services/university.asp)  
Or call the NU Information Line @ 441-2400.

# **CITY UPDATES**

## **BOTANICAL GARDEN**

### **Botanical Note Cards**

February 5 • 9:30 - 11:30AM

Give your correspondence some class! Turn blank note cards into botanical beauties! Techniques of stamping, embossing, watercolors and appliquéing dried natural botanicals will be explored. Create a set of three separate designs.

Cost: \$16 (\$10 for NBG Members)

Class min: 8 / max: 20

### **Garden Stars**

*Sponsored by the Back Bay Amateur Astronomers*

March 5 & April 2 • 7 - 9PM

Come out and take a look through a large telescope at the moon and planets, star clusters, galaxies & more! Learn about the sky and your place in the universe. Got an old telescope in the closet that you could never figure out how to use? Bring it with you and we will help you get a closer look at nature's night sky wonders.

Children under 16 free with paying adult

Cost: \$10 per night (\$4 per night for NBG Members)

### **Botanical Sketching**

April 2 & 9 • 2 – 4PM

Learn basic sketching skills to produce beautiful botanical sketches with art instructor Nance Corriveau. Explore the garden looking for appropriate subjects then discover

techniques like stippling, hatching, shading and blending to make the plant come alive on paper. This course is appropriate for ages 12-102. Price includes supplies.

Cost: \$20 per class (\$15 per class for NBG Members)

## HUMAN SERVICES

### **Now playing on TV 48, Norfolk's Neighborhood Network:**

*The Money Trap* - this special, hour-long edition of Human Services Forum addresses the pitfalls of payday loans and credit card debt and how to make the most of your earnings through the Earned Income Tax Credit and free tax filing assistance.

Experience the pride of home ownership with the help of free financial and tax credit counseling and other local resources. The program can be viewed daily at 8:30 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. on TV 48 and online at [www.norfolk.gov/tv48](http://www.norfolk.gov/tv48)

**Wanted: Caring and flexible adults to provide a warm, loving and stable environment to Norfolk's foster children.** The next Foster/Adoptive Parent Training series begins Thursday, January 13, 2005. Call Nancy Brock, P.R.I.D.E. Coordinator at (757) 664-6079 by January 5, 2005 for information on how to register.

**Fuel Crisis Assistance.** The Norfolk Department of Human Services is accepting applications for Fuel Crisis Assistance through March 15, 2005. The Fuel Crisis Program helps individuals and families to meet a household's heating need when no other resource is available. The following types of assistance are available:

### **January 3 - March 15**

- Purchase of primary home heating fuel
- Payment of primary heat utility bill if primary heating source is cut off or in danger of being cut off

Applications for Fuel Crisis Assistance are available at your nearest Norfolk Human Services location. Call 664-7551 for more information.

## LIBRARIES

### **Pretlow To Move to Temporary Location as Library Prepares to Build the new Mary D. Pretlow Anchor Branch**

Construction for Norfolk's new Pretlow Branch Library will begin this summer. Pretlow Branch Library will relocate to its temporary quarters. On March 1, 2005 Pretlow Branch Library will close temporarily to complete this move.

The Library will re-open on **April 1, 2005** at its new location at 120 Balview Avenue.

The temporary location will allow full library service to continue in the Ocean View area throughout construction. Hours of operation, programming, and computer availability will remain the same after April 1. Although moving to the temporary site may cause a few inconveniences, preparing for the new Anchor branch is exciting.

*For more information on the new Mary D. Pretlow Anchor Branch visit our web site at [www.npl.lib.va.us](http://www.npl.lib.va.us)*

### **Technology Literacy: Finding Magazine and Newspaper articles at [www.npl.lib.va.us](http://www.npl.lib.va.us)**

Norfolk Public Library offers residents an array of information through electronic databases. You can access many of these databases from home 24 hours, 7 days a week by visiting the library's web site.

The Library has more than 2,000 magazines available online that go back as far as 40 years. To access these articles visit the library's web site ([www.npl.lib.va.us](http://www.npl.lib.va.us)) and click on the reference button. In addition, reference material such as biographical books, encyclopedias, dictionaries and more are also offered online.

*For the list of Black History Month activities, go to Things to See and Do.*

## **NEIGHBORHOOD AND LEISURE SERVICES**

### **Recreation and Community Services**

**Seniors Sign Renewal of the Virginia Triad Agreement - “Still Leading the Way”** - The Virginia Triad Agreement provides partnership opportunities to identify the needs and assure the safety of Norfolk's senior residents. The Triad was first conceived in 1988 when representatives from several national and local senior organizations came together and agreed to collaborate to help ensure senior safety.

**2nd Annual Boo Williams Girls Holiday Basketball Tournament** - Congratulations to the Sherwood Forest Community Center on their second straight PACE Athletic League Girls Volleyball championship! Sherwood defeated a surprising Diggs Town girls' team that finished with only two wins during the regular season and Sherwood also defeated the “heavily favored” Huntersville girls' team in the semifinals. Huntersville finished in third place.

**Hydraulic Chair Lift at Huntersville Pool** - Persons who need assistance getting into and out of swimming pools now have a great new option at the Huntersville Pool. A brand new hydraulic chair lift has been installed at the pool,

replacing the worn out mechanical chair lift. Staff reported that the chair is used 4-5 times per day. Some additional features of the new lift include:

- Greater weight lifting capacity at 400 lbs vs. the 300 lbs. on the older lift.
- Hydraulic workings are less likely to succumb to corrosion from humidity and water.

**Football Banquet** - The Athletic Association sponsored a Football Banquet on, Dec. 10 at Lake Taylor Middle School for children that played on the teams. Over 420 people, from age 5 years old to adult, came out for this popular event that celebrates football in Norfolk.

**Merrimack Landing Recreation Center Reports the Following Highlights:**

- Merrimack Academic and Athletic Association started basketball practices on Tuesdays and on Thursdays from December 9 through February, 2005.
- More than 20 people have enrolled in the popular English as a Second Language class, held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Merrimack Center.

**2nd Annual Boo Williams Girls Holiday Basketball Tournament** - On December 18 & 19, 2004, the Huntersville Community Center hosted the AAU Girl's Basketball Tournament with the city's own Norfolk XPress AAU teams. Other participating teams came from Williamsburg, Hampton, Newport News, Portsmouth, Virginia Beach, Franklin and as far away as New Jersey. With over 850 spectators, the two day tournament was a great success, with local basketball legends, Boo Williams and Bob Dandridge as featured guests.

**Intergenerational Holiday Celebration at Southside Senior Center** - Over forty 5<sup>th</sup> grade students from Campostella Elementary School entertained a gathering of seniors on December 13 at the Southside Senior Center. Featured activities were breakfast with Santa, a fun- filled "Pollyanna Gift Exchange" and a presentation of a mini-stocking filled with candy and pencils to each of the children.

**Santa's Helpers Spend Saturday at Fairlawn** - On Saturday, December 18, 2004, Fairlawn Recreation Center held its annual breakfast with Santa. Over 175 participants enjoyed a program that included a gift shop, an arts and crafts station, letter writing, a Santa mail box, pictures with Santa and a full hot and cold breakfast from Shoney's Restaurant. The program welcomed volunteers from Granby High School, Fairlawn teachers, and adult Fairlawn Advisory Board members.

## **Neighborhood Services**

### **PACE Highlights**

#### **Crime Prevention Awards Update**

**Date:** March 21, 2005

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

**Location:** Norfolk Airport Hilton

**Cost:** \$20 per person

**Key note speaker:** Michelle Simpson, CEO, Inspiring Minds Youth Development Center is in Hampton, VA. Ms. Simpson was a keynote speaker at the Statewide Neighborhood Conference.

Nomination forms and tickets will be available after January 1 through the PACE office and on the City's website [www.norfolk.gov](http://www.norfolk.gov).

### **World Changers**

Neighborhood Services staff is gearing up for World Changers 2005. Applications are received year-round and the search for homes begins in January and February. The process includes representatives from the focus neighborhood. The orientation meeting for those community leaders will be held January 6, 2005, 7:00 p.m., at the Estabrook Civic League Building, located at 3612 Robin Hood Rd.

### **Community News**

In a partnership effort with Neighborhood Service Centers Employee Relations Committee (ERC,) a special "Care to Share" project was organized to support the Battered Women's Shelter. The shelter provides a safe haven for abused women and children. Most battered women arrive at the shelter with only the clothes they are wearing and there is a desperate need for personal clothing and toiletry articles. Through the efforts of our Neighborhood Services Division ERC, the "Care to Share" was initiated for this holiday season. As a result of the project, over (40) boxes and bags of clothes, shoes, personal items for women and children were donated from citizens throughout the Hampton Roads community and delivered to the YWCA. In addition to the items, \$200.00 was also presented.

### **Neighborhood University Highlights**

- Neighborhood University's Spring 2005 course schedule has been released and is available in city facilities and upon request. Course registration begins January 3, 2005.
- Neighborhood University introduced the "NU Info Line" in response to the hundreds of calls and general information inquiries received. NU Info Line (441-2400, x 232)

is a 1 minute and 30 second message to inform citizens of general Neighborhood University course and enrollment information.

## **Neighborhood Service Center News**

### **Little Creek Neighborhood Service Center NSC:**

- The center welcomed active duty Navy member BTSN Steve Faulk to help out at the receptionist desk during the busy holiday schedule. He is stationed at the Norfolk Naval Base on the USS Austin ship. Military volunteers are appreciated by the staff and are always a welcome addition to the centers. Currently, Mr. Faulk is assisting staff at the main reception desk in the lobby.
- The Little Creek Neighborhood Center remembered our nation's veterans on Pearl Harbor Day December 7, 2004. Approximately 50 adults and children received historical information on the attack at Pearl Harbor.
- The Little Creek Neighborhood Center annual tradition to make the holiday season a happy time for families and their children once again surpassed expectations as the Center Canteen donated 18 Farm Fresh Gift Certificates valued at \$50 each to families in need. The LCNSC Canteen also donated a total of \$184 to the Union Mission and DSS Foster Care.

### **Park Place Neighborhood Service Center:**

- The Norfolk Public Health Department continues to administer flu shots to Norfolk citizens at the Park Place Neighborhood Service Center. This month over 130 people have received flu shots. Flu shots are given first to high risk persons, (those persons age 65 and older or those 2 years of age and older who have chronic medical conditions). There is a fee associated with the cost of the flu shots. Seniors who have Medicare and others pay a fee of \$18.00. For more information related to availability of flu shots, call 664-7500 or the Norfolk Public Health Department.

## **Neighborhood Preservation**

Neighborhood Preservation representatives, Ralston McInnis and C.E. Satchell attended the Downtown Norfolk Council Meeting held on December 2, 2004. Chairman Phyllis Earley presided over the meeting. A property maintenance issue was received from Jim Stanek, Fire Prevention Inspector, regarding the makeshift and temporary fencing that is placed around construction sites. This complaint has been forwarded to the Code Official for investigation and appropriate action.

In addition to civic leagues, NP staff attended the Norfolk Police & Property Owner Association meeting. Sheriff McCabe discussed eviction and set out procedures and

advised that evictions will not occur over the holidays between December 21st and December 26th.

## **Parks and Urban Forestry**

The landscape renovation of the Berkley Multi-purpose Center is complete. The project included removing the existing hedge and fence; bringing the parking area into landscape code compliance; the addition of new planting beds; renovating the existing beds to add seasonal color and interest, and the renovation of the landscape at the Berkley pool and entrance areas.

The Redwood Junior Garden Club generously donated funds to make landscape improvements to the grounds of Larchmont Elementary School. This partnership with Parks and Urban Forestry included the addition of new beds for curb appeal to the front entrance and the renovation of existing hedges.

To date, 369 trees have been harvested from the City Farm. These trees will be planted throughout the city for landscape projects and street tree plantings.

## **Youth Development**

### **Teen Culture Fest, a Solid Winner for Norfolk!**

“I’ve never seen something like this before,” said DJ Law of the Boodah Brothers from 103 JAMZ radio station. “I was happy they invited me.” (Virginian Pilot article-by teen correspondent Reena Singh, December 13, 2004). It was a perfect response for an event that was well planned and implemented by a teen cultural committee, adult volunteers, Norfolk Public and Private Schools, a host of partners including faith based organizations, the Department of Human Services, the City of Norfolk’s Division of Youth Development, and other youth service agencies. The Fest featured cultural foods, a teen “Speak Out,” and Samba (Brazilian) dance instructions. Performers and exhibitors included Anthony Hailey’s steel band Rhythm Project, “Shaggy,” radio DJ, Z-104, Chris Caliente, radio DJ 103 JAMZ, and former NFL great William Fuller. Attendees were numbered well into the hundreds.

The group is already started on future fests by contacting every interested teen who signed up to be part of the teen cultural committee for 2005 to begin planning a series of ongoing activities, i.e., publishing a newsletter and/or creating a “Teen Culture Fest” website that will continue to promote cultural diversity among Norfolk teens as well as plan for the Second Annual Teen Cultural Fest. The Division would like to thank everyone who helped to make the event successful, especially the Harrison Opera House, Vice Mayor Daun Hester who stayed the entire time, the Teen Cultural Advisory Committee and the Division of Recreation and Community Service for their supportive recreation staff.

**Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Tribute/ March Preparation**

The Division of Youth Development is making plans for the upcoming 2005 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute celebration. Last year featured many individuals, families, city officials and community leaders participating in a march from City Hall to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Plaza located at the corner of Brambleton Ave. and Church Street for a very special unveiling and dedication ceremony. This year an even larger crowd of participants throughout the region is anticipated

**NORFOLK NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK – CABLE TV 48**

**NORFOLK'S WEB TO THE WORLD...** Norfolk's Neighborhood Network (NNN) - TV48 original shows are now available to a worldwide audience through the City's website. Norfolk Perspectives, Council Update, Norfolk News Updates and special programs, such as Norfolk's Salute to Negro League Baseball, are now accessible to anyone in the world with computer capability to view video.

This new service expands our website contents and provides both Norfolk residents as well as individuals in search of information about our City another information option. Initiatives such as this one are based on analysis of data related to hits on our web site.

In October, for example, the website had 128,266 "unique" visitors (If someone visits more than once, they are counted only the first time they visit). Popular locations for visitors include: Welcome Page (news releases, event information and links to other pages); Job listings; Real estate property assessment search; staff page (employee access to the intranet and City email); calendar; Police; Courts; and Come Home to Norfolk Now. The average time visitors spent on the website in October was 5 minutes.

**PUBLIC WORKS**

**Streetlight Update** – Dominion Virginia Power added two crews to address more than 400 calls from Norfolk residents and employees about streetlight outages, following an appeal by Norfolk Public Works.

Nearly three-fourths of the outages were repaired by the end of December and the rest were pending. Public Works urges residents to call if they spot an outage. Dominion Power does not look for outages, rather they wait for the city or citizens to report an outage before responding. As such, we need your help. While Public Works employees conduct periodic checks for light outages, the City also depends on residents and other City employees to spot outages, especially on neighborhood streets which are not as frequently checked by city staff.

If you notice a street light outage, please gather the following information and use one of the methods listed below to report the problem:



**Collect the following information about the outage location:**

Closest address and street name

9 digit pole number starting with "NO"

Type of problem (light completely out, light flicking on/off, or damaged)

**To report the problem use one of the following options**

Call Dominion Power at 1-888-667-3000, use option #1

Use the city website and fill in the Street Light Form at

<http://www.norfolk.gov/publicworks/streetlights.asp>

**CITY'S 2005 UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN – THE** City employees reached 100 percent of its goal by receiving **\$234,240** in contributions and pledges from employees. Special acknowledgements are extended to Kristen Lentz, 2005 campaign coordinator, as well as to Clark Earl (who will serve as our campaign coordinator for 2006), Terri Smith, Geraldine Jones-Dailey and Peg Nelson for their outstanding work on this year's campaign. These five individuals worked with department coordinators and planned special events such as our campaign kick-off at the Virginia Zoo. This kick-off event highlighted our community based agencies that work tirelessly throughout the year to address the needs of our community. Finally, and foremost, a special thank you goes to all the employees that contributed their time and/or money in making this year's campaign a huge success.

**GOVERNOR PROPOSES BUDGET AMENDMENTS...** Governor Mark R. Warner, on Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup> recommended a package of amendments to the state's \$61 billion 2004-2006 budget. With a revised revenue forecast adding \$450.8 million in projected revenues to fiscal year 2005, and \$467.9 million to fiscal year 2006, the Governor highlighted the states much-improved financial position. Some of the significant amendments include: reducing the sales tax on food by 1.5 percent next July; a net increase of \$48.8 million for public education during this biennium; and an \$824 million increase in funding for transportation. Staff is reviewing the impact of the Governor's amendments and will provide an analysis for the January 4, 2005 Informal Council session.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATES**

**CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION ADVOCATES "FLUSH TAX"...** The Chesapeake Bay Foundation is pushing for legislation in the 2005 General Assembly session, entitled the "Virginia Clean Rivers, Clean Chesapeake Bay Initiative.

Essentially, the proposed legislation is Virginia's version of the Maryland "flush tax," which would provide financial support to help meet the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement criteria. The proposal establishes a dedicated user fee on Virginia

households and industries that utilize sewage treatment and septic systems regardless of whether they have an impact on the Bay. A proposed fee schedule of \$1.00 a week per household and slightly less than \$25 per week per industrial facility would be collected by localities as a user fee. Localities would then remit the monies to the State Treasurer. currently there seems to be little support for the measure. Staff has reviewed this legislation and recommends that the City oppose this proposal.

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#### **D'ART CENTER WORK EXHIBITED THIS WINTER IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**BUILDING...** The d'ART Center is exhibiting its artists' works in the General Assembly Building during the 2005 session from January 8<sup>th</sup> through March 11<sup>th</sup>. This exhibition will give the Center an opportunity to showcase the artistic and cultural richness of our community as well as promote Norfolk and the beautifully renovated and historic Selden Arcade.

#### **GOVERNOR WARNER ANNOUNCES NEW FORENSIC SCIENCE FUNDING AND NEW TERRORISM INTELLIGENCE CENTER**

Governor Mark R. Warner today announced the funding of new scientist positions and a new mitochondrial DNA testing unit at the Virginia Division of Forensic Science, expansion of available space in the Eastern Regional Forensic Lab in Norfolk, and the creation of a new "Fusion Center" to distill and share information on anti-terrorism intelligence and emergency response throughout the Commonwealth.

The funding announcements will be part of the Governor's amendments to the biennial budget, to be presented to the joint money committees of the General Assembly this Friday, and amendments to the capital portion of the budget. To date, the Governor has already announced the Transportation Partnership Act of 2005, and the Virginia Works economic development initiative for rural and economically distressed communities.

"Our strong economy and the solid foundation of this year's bipartisan tax and budget reform enable us to fund core government services and make some very focused investments in the future," said Governor Warner. "Our forensic lab has an outstanding track record in supporting criminal investigations, and additional manpower, tools and physical space will translate into significant improvements to the services our lab provides to prosecutors and police across the Commonwealth. Additionally, since the terrorist attacks of September 11<sup>th</sup>, we have worked to improve our intelligence gathering and sharing efforts. A new, state-of-the-art center will better equip law enforcement and first responders across Virginia in the event of a terrorist threat or large-scale disaster."

**NORFOLK ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION INVITATION**

Dear Civic Leader:

The Norfolk Environmental Commission, in cooperation with the City of Norfolk Department of Public Works, will be conducting two nights of focus group sessions on the City's waste management services. Over 40 residents from all over Norfolk will come together to discuss our current waste management services and how they could be improved. Citizen input is crucial to the process of managing our operations and possible changes in the future. From the information we gathered in similar focus groups four years ago, the City implemented new bulk waste collection procedures and the enhanced curbside recycling program. We invite you or a representative of your Civic League to be a part of this important event.

The Sessions will be held on two consecutive Thursday evenings: January 20<sup>th</sup> and January 27<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00pm to 9:00pm at the Fire Department Training Building, 7120 Granby Street. The Fire Training Facility is located at the corner of Thole and Granby Streets.

The schedule for the sessions will include a briefing at the beginning of the meeting and a light dinner (cold sandwich, soda, chips). Following this, you will be joining a smaller facilitated discussion group that will address specific waste management topics. All the information you will need will be provided at the meetings. Dress is casual.

I hope you will help with this important effort. To confirm your space at the Focus Group Sessions, please call or email our office by January 14th: 441-1347 or [nec@norfolkbeautiful.org](mailto:nec@norfolkbeautiful.org). If you know of anyone else that is a residential customer of the Norfolk's waste collection services and would like to help, please refer them to John Deuel at the Norfolk Environmental Commission at 441-1347.

Sincerely,  
Jim English, Chairman  
Norfolk Environmental Commission

**TECHNOLOGY****Norfolk one of Top 10 Digital Cities Named for 2004**

The most technology-advanced cities in America have been named by the Center for Digital Government based on its 2004 Digital Cities Survey. The annual study examines how city governments are utilizing digital technologies to better serve their citizens and streamline operations. Norfolk was fifth in its population category.

The first-place cities in their respective population categories are Virginia Beach, Va.; Des Moines, Iowa; Denton, Texas (tie); Ogden, Utah (tie); and Redmond, Wash.

The Center and the National League of Cities (NLC) developed the survey this past summer and invited more than 600 city mayors, managers and chief information officers to participate. The survey grouped cities into four population categories: 250,000 or greater, 125,000-249,999, 75,000-124,999, and 30,000-74,999. Officials responded to a set of 24 questions and ranked their jurisdictions according to a four-point scale, providing Web site addresses and background data for final verification and validation.

Survey questions focused on implementation and adoption of online service delivery; planning and governance; and the infrastructure and architecture that make the transformation to digital government possible. Open-ended questions were also asked that allowed cities to discuss their initiatives on collaboration, enterprise activities, spatial data, policy priorities, and structure data.

"We received a record number of survey responses this year from city governments around the country," said Cathilea Robinett, executive director of the Center. "This indicates to me that local jurisdictions are actively engaged in the digital government movement and are proud to share their innovations -- and rightly so. We are pleased to honor our nation's cutting-edge cities with the 2004 Digital Cities Survey award."

**125,000-249,999 population category:**

1st Place: Des Moines, Iowa

2nd Place: Hampton, Va.

3rd Place: Winston-Salem, N.C.

4th Place: Madison, Wis.

5th Place: Norfolk, Va.

6th Place: Torrance, Calif.

7th Place: Chesapeake, Va.

8th Place: Hollywood, Fla.

9th Place: Chandler, Ariz.

10th Place: Naperville, Ill.

The 2004 Digital Cities Survey was underwritten by Oracle. For more information on the survey or the Center for Digital Government, contact Rhonda Wilson at 916/932-1321 or [rwilson@centerdigitalgov.com](mailto:rwilson@centerdigitalgov.com).

## IN THE COMMUNITY

### **New Academy for Nonprofit Excellence**

The Norfolk Foundation and Tidewater Community College have teamed up to sponsor the Academy for Nonprofit Excellence. The new training academy will offer two-day, monthly courses for nonprofit staff and board members. The first course on strategic planning is set for Jan. 13 and 20 at TCC's Norfolk campus. The cost is \$65. For details on this and upcoming courses visit [www.tcc.edu/wd/academy](http://www.tcc.edu/wd/academy).

The new academy is designed to provide in-depth training for nonprofit staff and board members at a reasonable cost. Topics will range from fundraising to leadership and program evaluation.

The Norfolk Foundation believes that strong nonprofit organizations create a strong, healthy community and that in order to train and grow the best nonprofit professionals, our region needs a consistent, quality professional development program. Hence, their partnership with TCC.

Academy courses will be held 10 months of the year on consecutive Thursdays. Each 12-hour course will cost \$65. Courses will be held at either TCC's Norfolk or Virginia Beach campus. Participants will earn continuing education credits and those who complete 10 courses will earn a Certificate of Nonprofit Management.

### **LAKE TAYLOR HOSPITAL ANNUAL BREAKFAST**

The Mayor, Council members Winn and Burfoot were joined by City staff for the annual “Holiday Breakfast” at Lake Taylor Transitional Care Hospital recent. The highlight of this year’s event was Tom Orsini’s announcement that the final debt service payment from various issues totaling \$10 million was being made this month to the City in the amount of \$159,926.79. Conventional wisdom back in the early 1980s when hospitals across the nation were closing, suggested that Lake Taylor should do likewise. Lake Taylor became a success story based on the foundation established by the City’s leadership at that time and continues to serve the needs of Norfolk residents as well as residents throughout the Commonwealth.

### **VIRGINIA ZOO**

#### **Scales, Tails, and Shells**

**Saturday, March 26, 2005 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

If it slithers or slides, runs or hops, it is probably at your Virginia Zoo! Join us for special animal encounters and learn how we use animal enrichment techniques to promote natural behaviors.

Normal Admission.

### **Earth Day Celebration**

**Saturday, April 23 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

### **International Migratory Bird Day**

**Friday, May 7, 2005 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

Learn how to make your community or backyard bird-friendly for our visitors from the South! Join us for a variety of "bird-centered" activities designed to increase migratory bird appreciation. More activities TBA. Normal Admission.

## **THINGS TO SEE AND DO**

### **LIBRARIES**

**February is African American History Month. Celebrate with Music, Dance, Storytelling and More at Norfolk Public Library!**

These are just a few of the many African American History Month programs beginning offered at Norfolk Public Library. For a complete listing pick up our 2005 African American History Month.

#### **African Tales**

4:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 2

Storyteller Eunice Jones will spin a tale of Anansi, the spider, a legend from West Africa. (Family).

Larchmont Branch Library, 6525 Hampton Blvd., 441-5335

#### **A Visit from Anansi**

6:00 p.m., Thursday, February 3

Hear stories from Africa featuring Anansi. (Family). Park Place Branch Library, 620 West 29th Street, 664-7330

#### **Celebrating African American History Family Storytime.**

Saturday, February. 5, 12, 19, 26 at 10:30 a.m.

Join us Saturday mornings in February for great stories and folktales in the tradition of African American literature. (Family) Kirn Memorial Library, 301 East City Hall Ave., 664-7323

#### **Memories: Journey from the Past to the Present**

10:30 a.m., Saturday, February 5

Storyteller Julianna Sarr's one-woman interactive show explores the African-American experience using songs, instruments and audience participation. (Family). Van Wyck Branch Library, 1368 DeBree Avenue, 441-2844

**Nat Turner.**

2:00 p.m., Saturday, February 5

Professional actor Michael LaMelle explores the life and times of Nat Turner through dialogue and music. Be prepared for lots of audience participation. (Family). Blyden Branch Library, 879 East Princess Anne Road. 757-441-2852

**Dr. Lonise Bias: All Youth are Reachable, Teachable, Lovable and Savable**

3:00 p.m., Sunday, February 6

Dr. Bias is an internationally known motivational speaker, trainer, and consultant. She launched her own personal crusade against the plagues of violence and drug addiction after her sons Jay and Len were killed. Len was the University of Maryland basketball player who died in 1986 of a drug-related death, two days after being drafted by the Boston Celtics. She has turned her personal loss into a mission to help others, touring the country addressing the issues of drugs, alcohol, family, hope, and love. (Family) Kirn Memorial Library, 301 E. City Hall Avenue. 757-664-7323.

**I Talk With Drums**

4:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 9

Speak the language of Africa by creating your African drum. (School-Age). Blyden Branch Library, 879 East Princess Anne Road. 757-441-2852

**Daddy and Me: Hear WAVY's Don Roberts' Reads**

10 a.m., Saturday, February 12

WAVY news anchor Don Roberts shares his book, "Hey Daddy, Read This." Hear touching letters from Don, children, and adults. We'll take a moment to write our own letters on how important our dads are to each of us. Breakfast served. (All ages). Lafayette Branch Library, 1610 Cromwell Drive, 441-2842.

**Wheeler Dance Company.**

1:00 p.m., Saturday, February 12

Be prepared to kick up your heels for a rousing good time. Not only will the dancers perform for you, but they will even teach you a few steps. (All ages). Pretlow Branch Library, 9640 Granby Street, 441-1750

**Tidewater Friends of Folk Music present "Beleza."**

2:00 p.m. Saturday, February 12.

High energy, life celebrating, primal percussion drives the six-member world beat percussion group "Beleza". Their music springs from the primitive rhythms of West Africa, Brazil, and Haiti. (Family) Kirn Memorial Library, 301 East City Hall Ave., 664-7323

**Blyden Puppet Theater**

2:00 p.m., Saturday, February 12

The Blyden Puppeteers bring to life the story of black scientists and inventors. This educational and fun adventure will surely please all ages. (Family) Blyden Branch Library, 879 East Princess Anne Road 757-441-2852

**Nucleus - A Poetry Band**

3:00 p.m., Sunday, February 13

Take a journey from the beginnings of Black music to the present day. Poetry and prose are infused with the rhythmic band's exploration (All Ages). Kirn Memorial Library, 301 East City Hall Avenue. 757-664-7323

**African American Bingo**

6:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 16.

Test your knowledge of African American history with a game of "Bingo." Win fun prizes and enjoy great snacks! (School Age, Teens). Kirn Memorial Library, 301 East City Hall Ave., 664-7323

**Matunde Sakili African Dance & Arts Ensemble**

5:00 p.m., Sunday, February 13

Enjoy authentic African dance, live drummers, and stories. (Family.) Barron F. Black Homework Center 6700 E. Tanners Creek Dr. 441-5806

**The Talents of the Gullah**

4:00 p.m., Thursday, February 17

Learn about the Gullah people and their talents from weaving sweet grass baskets and Blacksmith Philip Simmon's works of art in the gates of Charleston. (All ages) Van Wyck Branch Library, 1368 DeBree Avenue. 757-441-2844

**Mariner's Museum - Waters of Despair, Waters of Hope**

6:30 p.m., Thursday, February 17.

Discover the role the Chesapeake Bay played in the lives of African-Americans. Its waterways fed the plantation system that drove the slave trade, but those same marine avenues also offered slaves many pathways to freedom. (Family) Lafayette Branch Library, 1610 Cromwell Drive, 441-2842

**Blyden Puppet Theater**

1:00 p.m., Saturday, February 19

The Blyden Puppeteers bring to life the story of black scientists and inventors. This educational and fun adventure will surely please all ages. Sheri Bailey of the Juneteenth Players is the writer and director of the production. (All Ages) Horace C. Downing Branch, 555 East Liberty Street, 441-1968



**Myrrh Cauthen-Show of Song, Drama, and Dance**

1:00 p.m., Saturday, February 19

Don't miss this dynamic show. Cauthen appeared in the film "Crazy Like A Fox" and HBO's "The Wire." She is a producer, singer, stage manager, director, actress, and songwriter. (Family) Jordan-Newby Branch Library  
961 Park Avenue, 441-2843

**Legend of the "Red Tails:" An Original Tuskegee Airman Tells His Story.**

2:00 p.m., Saturday, February 19

The men of the 332nd Fighter Group fought wars on two fronts - Jim Crow at home and Hitler's rule of the skies in Europe. During their 1,578 combat missions, not a single B-17 or B-24 that they escorted was lost. (Family) Little Creek Branch Library, 7853 Tarpon Place. 757-441-1751

**Sule in Concert: African American Contributions to the Classical Works**

3:00 p.m., Saturday, February 19

Please join us for a wonderful afternoon of spirituals, gospel, classical, and folk music. Norfolk Native and Librarian, Sule Alexander is a singer and director of his own dance company. (Family). Blyden Branch Library  
879 E. Princess Anne Rd. 441-2852.

**The Rosa Parks Story-A Film**

4:00 p.m., Monday, February 22

Join us for a special performance. This film was made by a group of Van Wyck Branch Library teens. (Family) Larchmont Branch Library, 6525 Hampton Blvd., 441-5335

**Celebration of Colors.**

5:45 p.m., Tuesday, February 22

Discover your hidden talent in designing an African bracelet while listening to music from the motherland. Age Groups: Family. Blyden Branch Library, 879 East Princess Anne Road. 757-441-2852

**I Wear the Mask of Happiness**

4:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 23

Making masks is an ancient art form. Learn the history of mask making as you design your own. (School-Age)  
Blyden Branch Library, 879 E. Princess Anne Rd., 441-2852

**African American Mask Making for Kids!**

6:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 23.

View our authentic African masks and create your own. (School Age, Teens) Kirn Memorial Library, 301 East City Hall Avenue, 757-664-7323

**Legend of the "Red Tails": An Original Tuskegee Airman Tells His Story**

4:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 23.

The men of the 332nd Fighter Group fought the war on two fronts - Jim Crow and Hitler's rule of the skies in Europe. During their 1,578 combat missions, not a single B-17 or B-24 that they escorted from Italy to Central Europe and back was lost. They destroyed 103 enemy aircraft. (Family) Larchmont Branch Library, 6525 Hampton Blvd. 757-441-5335

**Abolitionists' Museum**

6:30 p.m., Thursday, February 24

Eight abolitionists reside in a wax museum they call home. The curator brings in a confederate flag, and this august group of eight, (Douglass, Lincoln, Turner, Brown, Walker, Tubman, Truth, and Stowe), debate whether or not to destroy this symbol of the past... using the actual writings and speeches of these historical characters. This educating and entertaining comedy/drama by playwright Sheri Bailey and the talented Juneteenth Players, including Michael LeMelle, earns a winning grade! (All Ages) Lafayette Branch Library, 1610 Cromwell Drive, 441-2842

**Juneteenth Players Present: "Afrikan Kingz & Queenz.**

1:00 p.m., Saturday, February 26

The musical comedy "Afrikan Kingz & Queenz," based on the television game show Hollywood Squares, features an energetic host who guides Hannibal and Cleopatra VII, and four other kings and queens through a game of x's and o's. (School Age, Family) Janaf Branch Library, 124 Janaf Shopping Center. 757-441-5660

**A Glorious Gospel Concert.**

2:30 p.m., Saturday, February 26

Join us for a joyous afternoon of gospel music featuring the Butts Family, Christian Comedian "Sister Who Me", Young Voices--Saint Mark's UCC, Gospel Rapper "Roc the Apostle", and others. Age Groups: Family. Park Place Branch Library, 620 West 29th Street. 757-664-7330

**African American History Month Quiz Bowl Championship**

11:00 a.m., Saturday, February 26

The remaining 3 library teams compete in an exciting championship round. Competition was fierce in the first two. Come out and enjoy the finale and see which team takes home the trophy! Kirn Memorial Library, 301 E. City Hall Avenue. 757-664-7323

**D'ART CENTER**

Chase away the post-holiday blues on Friday, January 14, 2005, 6-8pm, as the d'ART Center hosts New Art New Wine 2005, an annual wine tasting reception and "Get-

Away" silent auction. This year's event, *The Last and Final Hurrah at 125*" will showcase the new artwork of current d'ART Artists as well as many d'ART alumni.

This is a wonderful fun filled evening! Enjoy a wine and champagne tasting reception, hot jazz entertainment and cool hors d'oeuvres. Acquire new art by d'ART Center artists and bid on silent auction fabulous "Get-Aways"; including Dinners, trips and spa packages.

**Paint your masterpiece on the walls of the d'Art Center. Last Hurrah before the center moves to Selden Arcade**

The d'ART Center is eagerly anticipating our move to Selden Arcade in early 2005! Before we pack up and go we have some great events, classes and workshops to tell you about! Please include in the following dates in Calendars, Best Bets and Faxes.

**Friday, Jan 14 ~ New Art New Wine'05 "The Last Hurrah at 125"**

Lift your post holiday spirits and chase your winter blues away while tasting a variety of luscious international wines and bidding on silent auction getaways. Get your creative juices flowing by **Painting the walls of the d'ART Center!** Tickets \$25 in advance \$30 at the door. Great music and food included. For more information call the d'ART Center 625-4211, visit our website, [www.d-artcenter.org](http://www.d-artcenter.org). "The Last Hurrah at 125" exhibit will continue through February 27.

**Jan 1 - March 1, 2005 ~ d'ART Center** is currently accepting applications from artists wishing to participate in the 2005 **"Mid-Atlantic Art Exhibition: "Open to all Media"**. Exhibiting April 22-June 26, 2005. Entry forms are available through the d'ART Center by calling 757.625.4211 or emailing: [d.artcenter@rcn.com](mailto:d.artcenter@rcn.com). Entry forms, fees and slides are due by 5pm on **MARCH 1ST, 2005**.

**d'ART Winter Art Classes 2005 - A great gift giving idea!**

**ADULT CLASSES:**

**Jan 18 - Feb 15 ~ Watercolors that Dance!** 5 sessions, Tues. 1:30-3:30pm, Tuition \$64

**Jan 18 - Feb 15 ~ Beginning Drawing ~** 5 sessions, Tues. 6:00-8:30pm, Tuition \$64

**Jan 27 - Feb 17 ~ Oriental Flower Painting~** 4 sessions, Thurs. 12:30-3:00pm, Tuition \$52

**Jan 19 - Feb 16 ~ Pottery : Wheelwork ~** 5 sessions, Wed. 5:45-8:00pm, Tuition \$65

**Jan 20 - Feb 17 ~ Pottery: Hand Building ~** 5 sessions, Thurs. 5:45-8:00pm, Tuition \$65

**Jan 18 - Feb 15 ~ Individual Directions in Painting~** 5 x, Mon or Wed 6-8pm, Tuition \$64

**Jan 22 - Feb 19 ~ Oil Pastels ~** 5 sessions, Sat. 10-12pm, Tuition \$64

**Jan 20 - Feb 17 ~ Oil Painting ~** 5 sessions, Thurs. 6-8pm, Tuition \$64

**One Day WORKSHOP:**

**Feb 2 ~ Try your Hand at Calligraphy ~ 1 session, Wed. 10:30-4:30pm, Tuition \$38**

**CHILDRENS CLASSES:**

**Jan 20 - Feb 17 ~ Mixed Media, ages 4-7 ~ 5 sessions, Thurs 3:30-5:00pm, Tuition \$52**

**Jan 19 - Feb 16 ~ Individual Directions in Painting, ages 7-10 ~ 4 x, Wed, 4-5pm, Tuition \$80**

**Jan 23 - Feb 13 ~ Exploration in Paint & Mixed Media, ages 9-14~ 4 sessions, Sun. 1:30-3:30pm, Tuition \$52**

**Jan 22 - Feb 19 ~ Experiments in Mixed Media, ages 6-9 ~ 5 sessions, Sat. 1-3pm, Tuition \$64**

For additional Information please contact the d'ART Center at 625-4211 or [www.d-artcenter.org](http://www.d-artcenter.org). Located on the corner of College Place and Boush Street, on eblock form MacCarther Mall.

*The d'ART CENTER is a regional, private, non-profit, visual art facility featuring over 38 resident visual artists creating, displaying and selling original fine art. Funds raised through our events support the center's mission of connecting the public with the visual arts process.*

**Virginia Stage Company**

Alfred Uhry's Pulitzer

Prize and Academy Award winning drama *Driving Miss Daisy* directed by Jane Page. *Driving Miss Daisy* chronicles the 25-year relationship between Daisy, a sharp-tongued widow who has become too old to drive, and Hoke, her black chauffeur, charting their course from mutual disdain to interdependence and affection. The production runs from January 16 to February 6. Tickets to *Driving Miss Daisy* range in price from \$8 to \$42.50, with January 16 serving as a Pay-What-You-Can night. *Driving Miss Daisy* will also mark the first VSC production to use the recently announced Best Ticket in Town promotion. All tickets to the preview performances (Jan. 18-20) will be sold for \$8. Tickets may be purchased at the VSC Box Office, by calling (757) 627-1234 or online at [www.vastage.com](http://www.vastage.com).

The Norfolk Foundation and Tidewater Community College have teamed up to sponsor the Academy for Nonprofit Excellence. The new training academy will offer two-day, monthly courses for nonprofit staff and board members. The first course on

strategic planning is set for Jan. 13 and 20 at TCC's Norfolk campus. The cost is \$65. For details on this and upcoming courses visit [www.tcc.edu/wd/academy](http://www.tcc.edu/wd/academy).

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### Virginia Stage Company Announces its Best Ticket in Town

In an effort to draw new and sustainable audiences to Virginia Stage Company productions at the Wells Theatre, Keith Stava, VSC's Managing Director, has announced that VSC will be the Best Ticket in Town during the Company's Preview Performances. For the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evening Preview Performances of the final three productions of the 2004-2005 season, all tickets will be priced at \$8 each (65% off the normal ticket price of \$22.50).

Audiences at these Preview Performances will experience the same high quality that Virginia Stage Company is known for at a fraction of the price. Virginia Stage Company is a member of the League of Resident Theatres, and as such, the Company employs professional actors, designers, and staff that come from Broadway and around the world to create productions that entertain audiences here in Hampton Roads.

By reducing its Preview Performance tickets to \$8, Virginia Stage Company has lowered its prices below that of what audiences would pay to see non-professional theater or an evening movie at a local movie theater--not to mention the cost of popcorn and sodas.

"By lowering the price of admission to our Preview Performances, we hope to make the joy of live theater accessible to all audiences in Hampton Roads," said Managing Director Keith Stava. "We currently have some families that can only afford to attend one show per season—we hope with this new price structure they will be able to enjoy the entire variety of our season. Not only does Virginia Stage Company have the best shows in town, we now have the best prices."

The \$8 Preview Performance dates are January 18, 19 and 20 for *Driving Miss Daisy*, March 1, 2 and 3 for *Vincent in Brixton* and April 5, 6 and 7 for *Treasure Island*. These and tickets to all other performances can be purchased by calling

(757) 627-1234.